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IS HE ALIVE-- OR DEAD?
GHOST RIDER™
IT'S HELL ON WHEELS... WHEN JOHNNY BLAZE CONJURES UP A SENSATIONAL NEW CYCLE!
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--OR YOU'RE ALL THRU!!
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STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE GHOST RIDER! TM

WHEELS ON FIRE
THAT BARREN SPOT BELOW--IT IS WHERE I MUST LEAVE YOU! ALREADY I HAVE SAVED YOUR LIVES*--
--WHICH IS MORE THAN THE SON OF SATAN SHOULD DO FOR ANY HUMANS!
BUT IF YOU ABANDON US, I WILL DIE WITH THE SUNRISE--AND SURELY THE GIRL WILL PERISH AS WELL!
*IT HAPPENED IN MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #12 WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SON OF SATAN! BUT FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WERE WRAPPED UP IN A SWINGIN' SABBAT AND MISSED IT, SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT THE OFFSPRING OF LUCIFER RESCUED OUR HOT-HEADED CYCLIST AND THE WITCH-WOMAN FROM THE HORDES OF HELL, APPARENTLY ONLY TO LEAVE THEM IN THE MIDST OF THE ARIZONA DESERT! AND NOW--ON WITH THE ACTION!

GARY FRIEDRICH SCRIPTER // JIM MOONEY ARTIST // JOHN TARTAG INKER // TOM ORZECHOWSKI, LETTERER GEO. ROUSSOS, COLORIST // ROY THOMAS EDITOR

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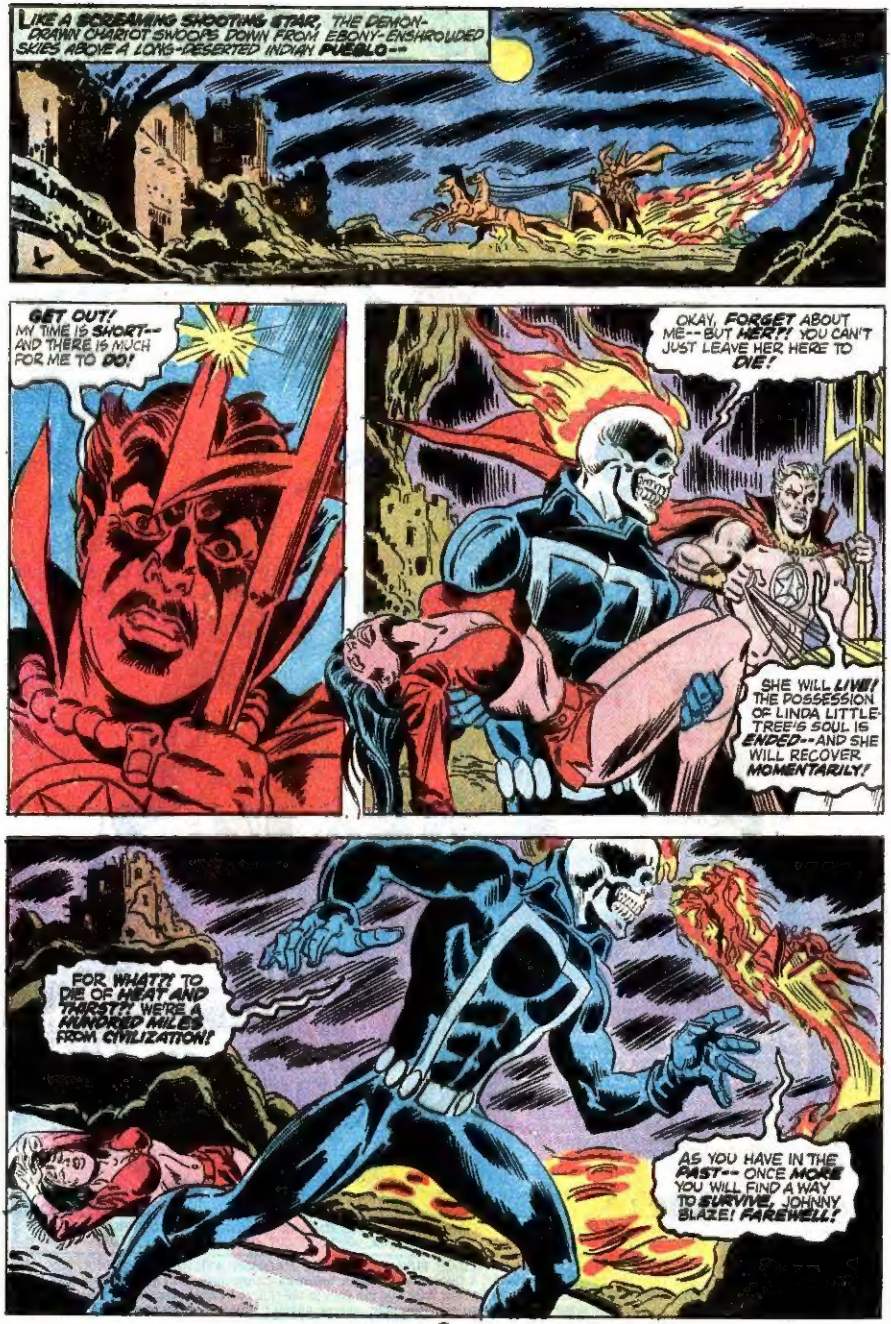
LIKE A SCREAMING SHOOTING STAR, THE DEMON-DRAWN CHARIOT SWOOPS DOWN FROM EBONY-ENSHROUDED SKIES ABOVE A LONG-DESERTED INDIAN PUEBLO--
GET OUT! MY TIME IS SHORT-- AND THERE IS MUCH FOR ME TO DO!
OKAY, FORGET ABOUT ME-- BUT HER?! YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER HERE TO DIE!
SHE WILL LIVE! THE POSSESSION OF LINDA LITTLE-TREE'S SOUL IS ENDED-- AND SHE WILL RECOVER MOMENTARILY!
FOR WHAT?! TO DIE OF HEAT AND THIRST?! WE'RE A HUNDRED MILES FROM CIVILIZATION!
AS YOU HAVE IN THE PAST-- ONCE MORE YOU WILL FIND A WAY TO SURVIVE, JOHNNY BLAZE! FAREWELL!

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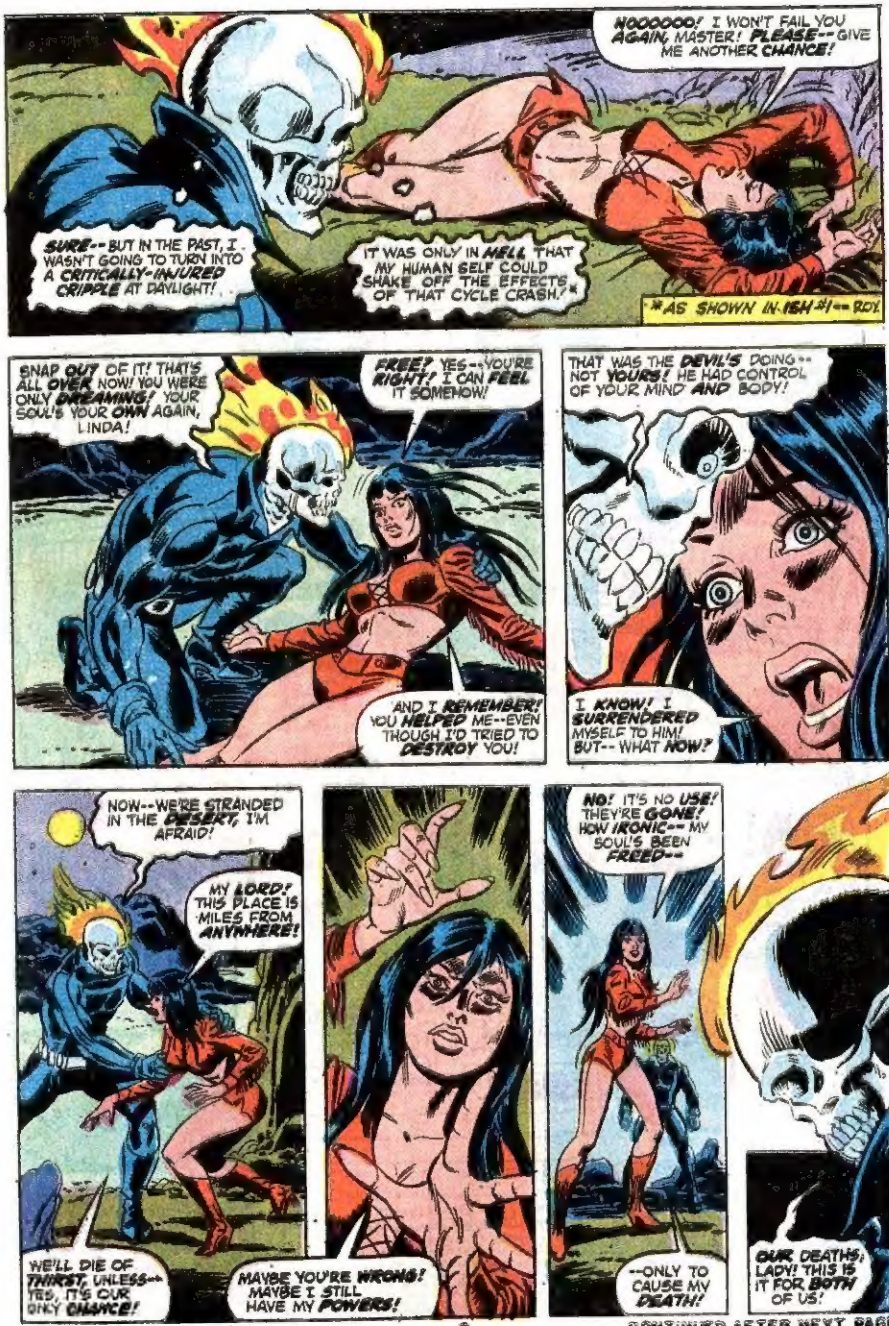
NOOOOOO! I WON'T FAIL YOU AGAIN, MASTER! PLEASE--GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE!
SURE--BUT IN THE PAST, I WASN'T GOING TO TURN INTO A CRITICALLY-INJURED CRIPPLE AT DAYLIGHT!
IT WAS ONLY IN HELL THAT MY HUMAN SELF COULD SHAKE OFF THE EFFECTS OF THAT CYCLE CRASH."
*AS SHOWN IN GHOST RIDER #1--RDY
SNAP OUT OF IT! THAT'S ALL OVER NOW! YOU WERE ONLY DREAMING! YOUR SOUL'S YOUR OWN AGAIN, LINDA!
FREE? YES--YOU'RE RIGHT! I CAN FEEL IT SOMEHOW!
AND I REMEMBER! YOU HELPED ME--EVEN THOUGH I'D TRIED TO DESTROY YOU!
THAT WAS THE DEVIL'S DOING--NOT YOURS! HE HAD CONTROL OF YOUR MIND AND BODY!
I KNOW! I SURRENDERED MYSELF TO HIM! BUT--WHAT NOW?
NOW--WE'RE STRANDED IN THE DESERT, I'M AFRAID!
MY LORD! THIS PLACE IS MILES FROM ANYWHERE!
WE'LL DIE OF THIRST, UNLESS--YES, IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!
MAYBE YOU'RE WRONG! MAYBE I STILL HAVE MY POWERS!
NO! IT'S NO USE! THEY'RE GONE! HOW IRONIC--MY SOUL'S BEEN FREED--
--ONLY TO CAUSE MY DEATH!
OUR DEATHS, LADY! THIS IS IT FOR BOTH OF US!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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CHARLES ATLAS ON TV

THE INSULT THAT MADE A MAN OUT OF 'MAC'

HEY! QUIT KICKING THAT SAND IN OUR FACES!
THAT MAN IS THE WORST NUISANCE ON THE BEACH
LISTEN HERE, I'D SMASH THAT FACE—ONLY YOU'RE SO SKINNY YOU MIGHT DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY!
THE BIG BULLY! I'LL GET EVEN SOME DAY
OH DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU, LITTLE BOY!
DARN IT! I'M SICK AND TIRED OF BEING A SCARECROW! CHARLES ATLAS SAYS HE CAN GIVE ME A REAL BODY. ALL RIGHT! I'LL GAMBLE. A STAMP AND GET HIS FREE BOOK!
BOY! IT WON'T TAKE ATLAS LONG TO DO THIS FOR ME! WHAT MUSCLES! THAT BULLY WON'T SHOVE ME AROUND ANY!
THERE'S THAT BIG STIFF AGAIN, SHOWING OFF IN FRONT OF GRACE AND THE CROWD. WELL, IT'S MY TURN AT THIS TIME!
WHAM!—NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY!
OH, MAC! YOU ARE A REAL MAN AFTER ALL!

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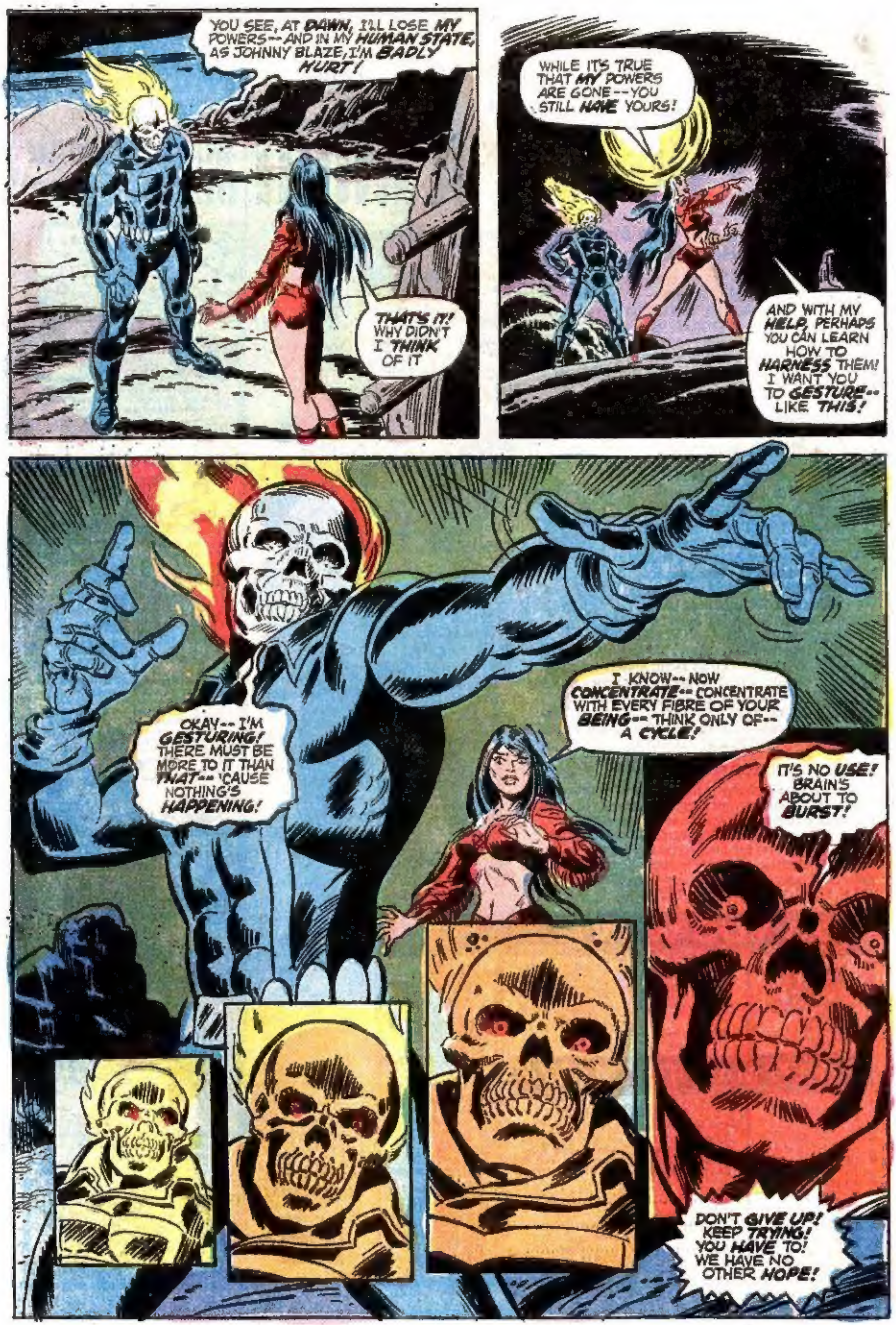
YOU SEE, AT DAWN, I'LL LOSE MY POWERS -- AND IN MY HUMAN STATE, AS JOHNNY BLAZE, I'M BADLY HURT!
THAT'S IT! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF IT
WHILE IT'S TRUE THAT MY POWERS ARE GONE -- YOU STILL HAVE YOURS!
AND WITH MY HELP, PERHAPS YOU CAN LEARN HOW TO HARNESS THEM! I WANT YOU TO GESTURE -- LIKE THIS!
OKAY -- I'M GESTURING! THERE MUST BE MORE TO IT THAN THAT -- 'CAUSE NOTHING'S HAPPENING!
I KNOW -- NOW CONCENTRATE -- CONCENTRATE WITH EVERY FIBRE OF YOUR BEING -- THINK ONLY OF -- A CYCLE!
IT'S NO USE! BRAIN'S ABOUT TO BURST!
DON'T GIVE UP! KEEP TRYING! YOU HAVE TO! WE HAVE NO OTHER HOPE!

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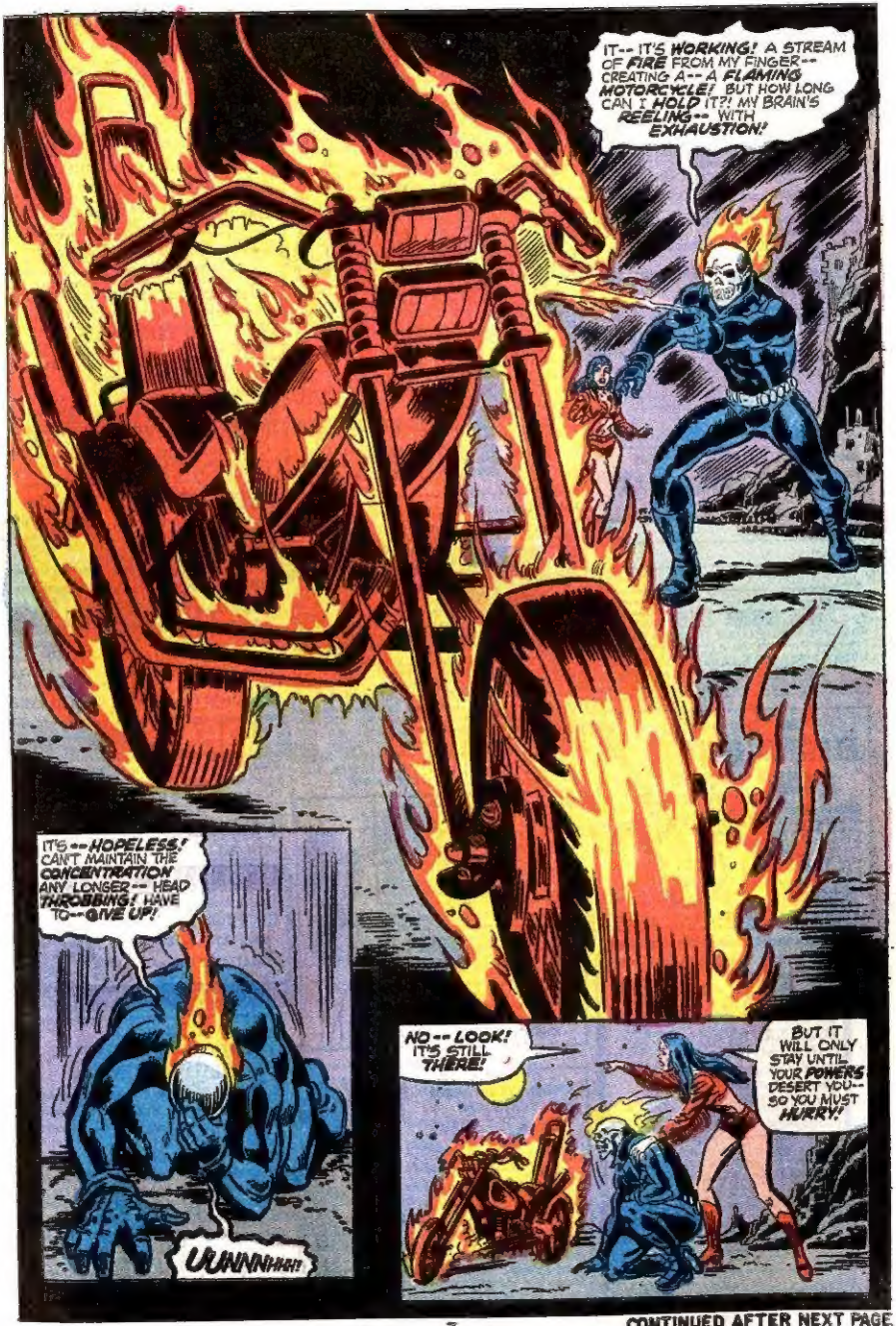
IT-- IT'S WORKING! A STREAM OF FIRE FROM MY FINGER-- CREATING A-- A FLAMING MOTORCYCLE! BUT HOW LONG CAN I HOLD IT?! MY BRAIN'S REELING-- WITH EXHAUSTION!
IT'S -- HOPELESS! CAN'T MAINTAIN THE CONCENTRATION ANY LONGER-- HEAD THROBBING! HAVE TO-- GIVE UP!
UUNNHHH!
NO-- LOOK! IT'S STILL THERE!
BUT IT WILL ONLY STAY UNTIL YOUR POWERS DESERT YOU-- SO YOU MUST HURRY!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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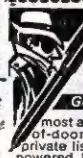

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OF COURSE! NOW I UNDERSTAND! I CAN FORM ANYTHING WITH FIRE-- IF I CONCENTRATE ON THE OBJECT--
--EXACTLY AS YOU DID WHEN WE FIRST MET! *
* MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #15! -- RT.
I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED IT LONG AGO--BUT THERE'S NO TIME FOR LOOKING BACK NOW!
GET ON! WE HAVE TO GET TO A TOWN BEFORE THE SUN RISES!
YOU DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING! I CAN'T GO WITH YOU! I DON'T HAVE THE SATANIC POWERS ANYMORE!
THEREFORE, I CAN'T RIDE ON YOUR MACHINE! TO ME, IT SIMPLY WOULDN'T BE THERE!
BUT YOU GO AHEAD! WHEN YOU REACH TOWN, YOU CAN SEND SOMEONE FOR ME! I'LL BE ALRIGHT UNTIL THEN!
BUT DON'T TAKE TOO LONG! SHOULD YOU LOSE YOUR POWERS BEFORE YOU CAN SUMMON HELP--
I WON'T! NO MATTER WHAT-- I'LL MAKE IT! I HAVE TO!
I PRAY YOU WILL, JOHNNY BLAZE-- BUT IF NOT, AT LEAST I WILL DIE HAVING KNOWN A REAL MAN!

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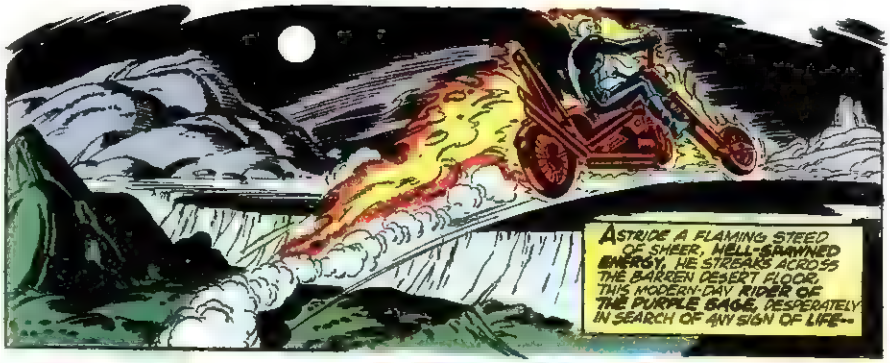
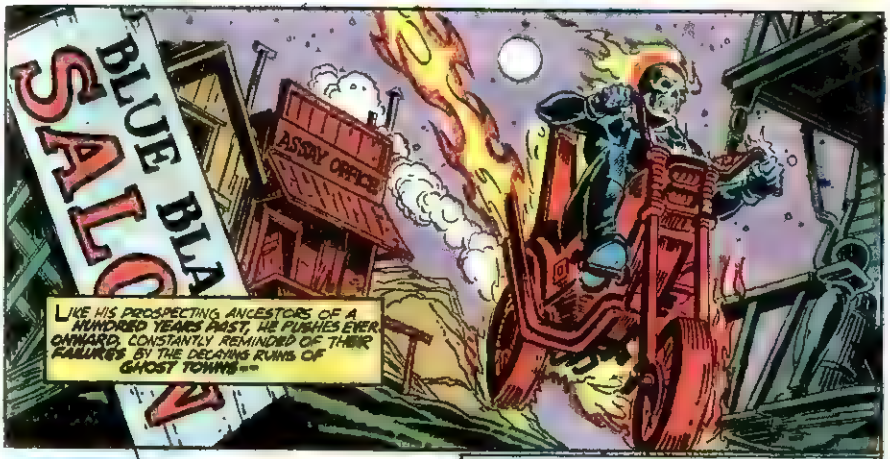
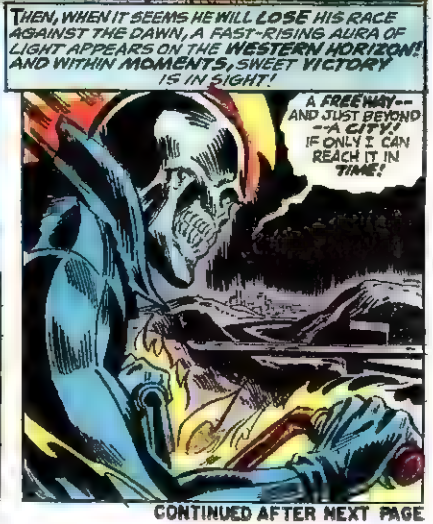

ASTRIDE A FLAMING STEED OF SHEER, HELL-SPAWNED ENERGY, HE STREAKS ACROSS THE BARREN DESERT FLOOR, THIS MODERN-DAY RIDER OF THE PURPLE SAGE, DESPERATELY IN SEARCH OF ANY SIGN OF LIFE--


BLUE BLA
SALO
ASSAY OFFICE
LIKE HIS PROSPECTING ANCESTORS OF A HUNDRED YEARS PAST, HE PUSHES EVER ONWARD, CONSTANTLY REMINDED OF THEIR FAILURES BY THE DECAYING RUINS OF GHOST TOWNS--

--BY THE CRUMBLING MONUMENTS TO THE HUNDREDS WHO DIED ALONG THE SAME ROUTE, PRESSED ON BY THE WILL TO LIVE-- AND BY THE SWIFTLY-PERSUING FIRST RAYS OF DAWN!


THEN, WHEN IT SEEMS HE WILL LOSE HIS RACE AGAINST THE DAWN, A FAST-RISING AURA OF LIGHT APPEARS ON THE WESTERN HORIZON! AND WITHIN MOMENTS, SWEET VICTORY IS IN SIGHT!
A FREEWAY-- AND JUST BEYOND --A CITY! IF ONLY I CAN REACH IT IN TIME!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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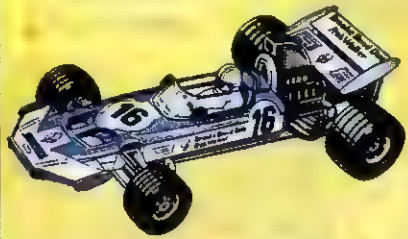

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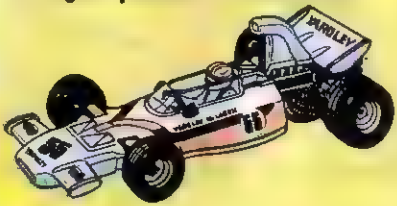

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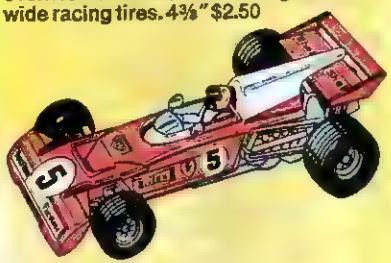

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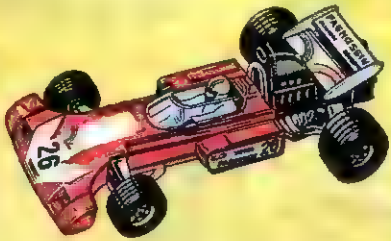

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WHILE, ONLY A FEW MILES DISTANT, YET ANOTHER DESPERATE HUMAN BEING STRUGGLES ALONG THE LONELY ROAD TOWARD CIVILIZATION AND SURVIVAL--
--A BEAUTIFUL BLONDE NAMED ROXANNE SIMPSON, THE GIRL JOHNNY BLAZE LOVES!
--SHE WAS LEFT IN THE DESERT LASH I'SH WHEN G.R. AND WITCH-WOMAN SPLIT FOR HELL!-- IT
EXHAUSTED--FRIGHTENED--SHE CAN ONLY RUN--AND RUN--AND RUN!!
OBLIVIOUS TO THE DESERT'S THOUSAND DANGERS, SHE PUSHES ON!
UNTIL, SUDDENLY, A SURGE OF HOPE ENGULFS HER--A HEADLIGHT RUSHES TOWARD HER IN THE DISTANCE!
CLOSER AND CLOSER IT COMES! HER HEART POUNDS WITH EXCITEMENT!
NOW SHE'LL BE RESCUED! NOW SHE'LL BE--HER HEART FREEZES!
YOU ONLY GET AWAY FROM ME ONCE, HONEY! NOW BIG DADDY DAWSON'S COME BACK FOR YA!
NOOOOOO

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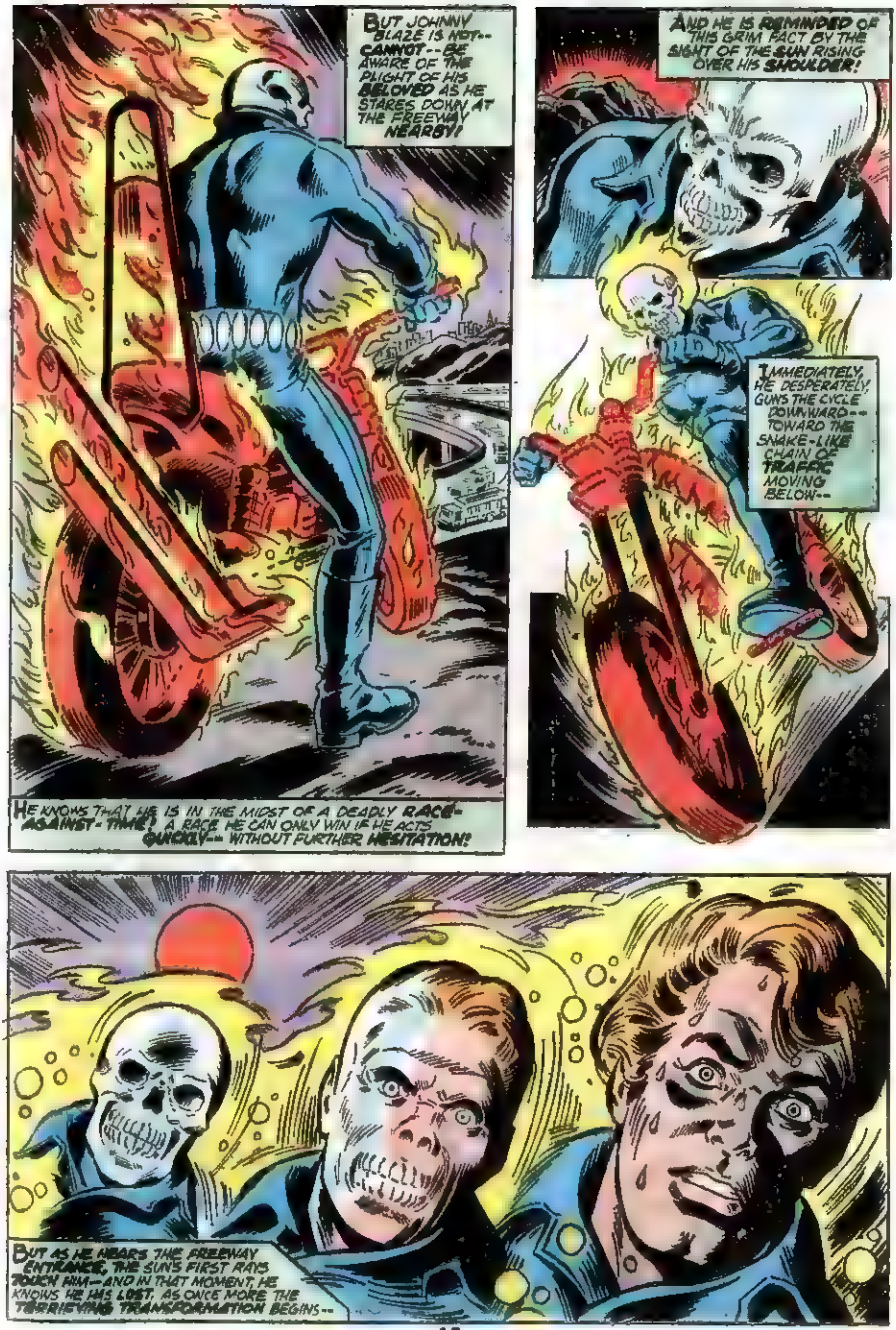
BUT JOHNNY BLAZE IS NOT-- CANNOT-- BE AWARE OF THE PLIGHT OF HIS BELOVED AS HE STARES DOWN AT THE FREEWAY NEARBY!
AND HE IS REMINDED OF THIS GRIM FACT BY THE SIGHT OF THE SUN RISING OVER HIS SHOULDER!
IMMEDIATELY, HE DESPERATELY GUNS THE CYCLE DOWNWARD-- TOWARD THE SNAKE-LIKE CHAIN OF TRAFFIC MOVING BELOW--
HE KNOWS THAT HE IS IN THE MIDST OF A DEADLY RACE-- AGAINST-TIME! A RACE HE CAN ONLY WIN IF HE ACTS QUICKLY-- WITHOUT FURTHER HESITATION!
BUT AS HE NEARS THE FREEWAY ENTRANCE, THE SUN'S FIRST RAYS TOUCH HIM--AND IN THAT MOMENT, HE KNOWS HE HAS LOST. AS ONCE MORE THE TERRIFYING TRANSFORMATION BEGINS--

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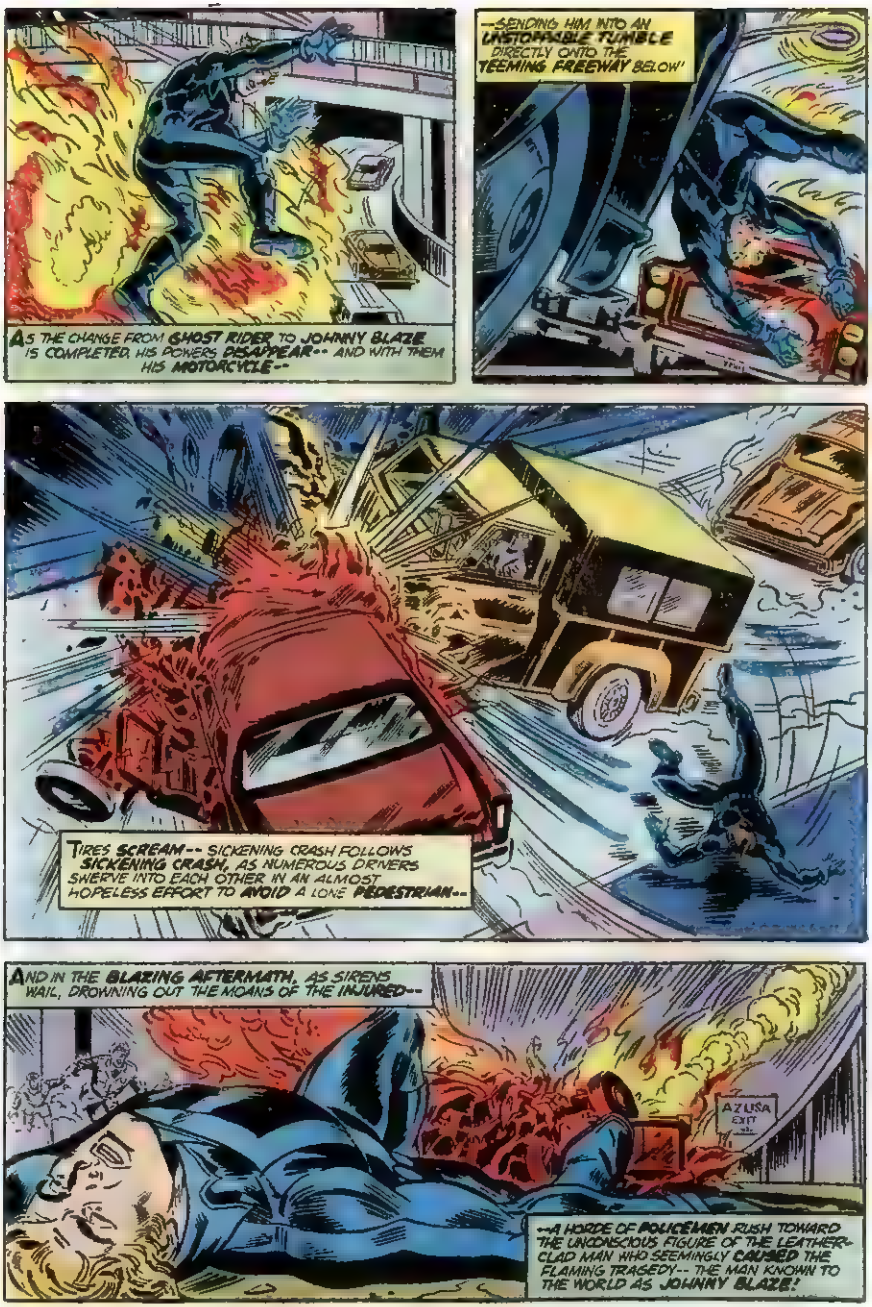
AS THE CHANGE FROM GHOST RIDER TO JOHNNY BLAZE IS COMPLETED, HIS POWERS DISAPPEAR-- AND WITH THEM HIS MOTORCYCLE--
--SENDING HIM INTO AN UNSTOPPABLE TUMBLE DIRECTLY ONTO THE TEEMING FREEWAY BELOW!
TIRES SCREAM-- SICKENING CRASH FOLLOWS SICKENING CRASH, AS NUMEROUS DRIVERS SWERVE INTO EACH OTHER IN AN ALMOST HOPELESS EFFORT TO AVOID A LONE PEDESTRIAN--
AND IN THE BLAZING AFTERMATH, AS SIRENS WAIL, DROWNING OUT THE MOANS OF THE INJURED--
AZUSA EXIT
--A HORDE OF POLICEMEN RUSH TOWARD THE UNCONSCIOUS FIGURE OF THE LEATHER-CLAD MAN WHO SEEMINGLY CAUSED THE FLAMING TRAGEDY-- THE MAN KNOWN TO THE WORLD AS JOHNNY BLAZE!

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NO POINT IN RUNNIN', HONEY! YOU'RE WHAT I WANT-- AND I'M GONNA GET YOU!
NOOO! I'D RATHER DIE!
SEE WHAT I MEAN?! I ALWAYS GET MY WAY IN THE END!
SO YOU CAN EITHER BE FRIENDLY AND MAKE IT EASY ON YERSELF--
-- OR YOU CAN KEEP FIGHTIN' ME AND-- WELL, YOU THINK ABOUT IT-- ON THE WAY TO MY PAD!

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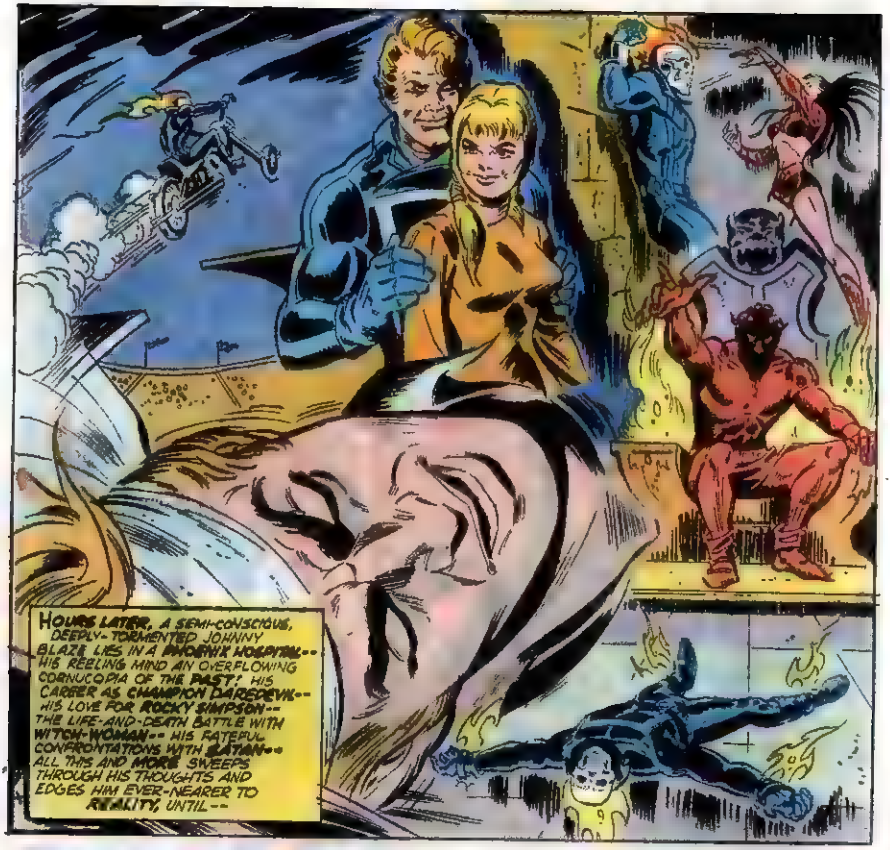
HOURS LATER, A SEMI-CONSCIOUS, DEEPLY-TORMENTED JOHNNY BLAZE LIES IN A PHOENIX HOSPITAL-- HIS REELING MIND AN OVERFLOWING CORNUCOPIA OF THE PAST! HIS CAREER AS CHAMPION DAREDEVIL-- HIS LOVE FOR ROCKY SIMPSON-- THE LIFE-AND-DEATH BATTLE WITH WITCH-WOMAN-- HIS FATEFUL CONFRONTATIONS WITH SATAN-- ALL THIS AND MORE SWEEPS THROUGH HIS THOUGHTS AND EDGES HIM EVER-NEARER TO REALITY, UNTIL--

MR BLAZE! YOU'RE SAFE -- YOU'LL BE ALRIGHT! PLEASE, TRY TO CALM DOWN!
HE'S GOING TO GET ME! YOU PROBABLY WORK FOR HIM! I'M GOING TO DIE -- AND NOTHING CAN SAVE ME!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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GHOST RIDER

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Dear Marvel,

I've just finished reading GHOST RIDER #1, "A Woman Possessed", and I've got to say it was great. You really got into a lot of supernaturalism this ish, and that's the way it should be.

This new mystery character, Daimon Hellstrom, really has me intrigued. Why does he have the mark of Satan on his chest? What's the weird heritage he's trying to live down? How come we didn't get to see his face??? (Somehow, I think I'm gonna find the answers in MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #12. I bet he's the star of the new MARK OF SATAN strip! If so, that's great. It's a first. An exorcist as the star of a comics series. Wow!)

I like the character of Linda Littletree, by the way, a lot more than I like Roxanne. How about letting Roxanne die and making Linda Johnny Blaze's new love-interest? After the devil un-possesses her, of course.

Anyway, those are my comments. Great story. Great art. Great suspense. Keep up the good work, hear?

Randy (the Forklift) Jones
Pacific, Mo.

No, Randy, we won't keep up the good work. Sorry. We hope you'll forgive us, but we're going to do our utmost to do even better as time goes on. And as for your guess about Daimon Hellstrom—you're right as a rain of fire. Which is a nice, sneaky, and yet unobtrusive lead-in to the following plug: THE MARK OF SATAN is appearing right now in MARVEL SPOTLIGHT. And if you miss it, effendi, you may have to trade your soul for a copy later on. We predict it's gonna be that big a hit! (Don't make liars of us, huh?)

Dear Stan, Roy, Gary, Tom, and Bullpen,

It pains me a little to say this, but GHOST RIDER is one of these strips which falls into my I.U.P. category. What I.U.P. stands for is: Infinite Unused Potential. And the question I keep asking myself is—WHY?

I still haven't reached an answer, but I have formulated a few theories if you'd care to lend them an ear (eye?)...

First of all, the stories. They're not tightly-enough plotted. Reading them, one gets the feeling that Gary can't quite make up his mind what to do next, but he's gotta come up with something 'cause there's a deadline to meet. So we get trivia. Roxanne bitten by snakes. G.R. pursued by the cops. An inexperienced cyclist trying to jump a non-existent canyon. Despite some fine dialogue work, it all comes off as irrelevant. We're never made to care. If Roxanne died from the snake-bites—so what? There's not enough character in that woman to get upset about.

Secondly, the Satanism motif. It's good. Keep it. But for heavens sake (pardon the pun), do something with it. Have G.R. come up against an entire cult of Satanists—or, better yet, have him ally himself with such a cult. And have the whole thing take place somewhere other than the middle of nowhere, out in the desert. If he's headed west, let him go to San Francisco and have a run-in with Daredevil...or to Los Angeles for a meeting with Morbius...or have him crash an Esalen Institute sensitivity session or something!!

Third, the art. It's not moody enough under Sutton, as it was under Ploog. It's not bad—far from it, in fact. But it doesn't have the intensity it should have. And the same is true of the coloring. Look at the recent Englehart/Brunner DR. STRANGE mags—that's the kind of shadowy world G.R. should inhabit.

All I'm really saying is this: GHOST RIDER can be a monumental success, or it can be Marvel's mightiest blunder. Right now, it's neither. I'd prefer it to be the former. How 'bout it?

John Grace
Portland, Oregon

We think some of your points are quite valid, John, and in the months to come we'll be trying hard to correct the faults still present in the strip. (Yeesh! Did we just admit we're not perfect??) In upcoming issues, you will be seeing G.R. in other locales, pitted against other kinds of menaces. As for guest-shots by some of our other superheroes...let's just say "maybe" at this point. A Spider-Man/Ghost Rider issue of MARVEL TEAM-UP is in the works (and may already have been publication by the time you read this), and if that's a rousing success—or any other kind of success, for that matter—we'll see about doing more along that line.

Regarding the rest of your criticisms, we'll leave it to the masses of Marveldom to respond. Anyone out there care to take issue? Or agree? Or bring up some new points? This here's the place to do it folks!

Dear Macabre, Bullpen,

So Ghost Rider's now in his own mag, huh? Good! This'll give you the chance, I hope, to explore some new areas that maybe you didn't want to chance while the series was still "on probation." Specifically, I'm speaking about the theological area into which this strip of necessity has intruded.

You've been asked this before, but...what is Johnny's relationship with God? What would happen if, for some reason, he had to call on God's aid? Does God see our Mr. Blaze as a sinner or a victim of Satan's devices—an unwilling victim, not truly evil?

Another big question? Could Johnny ever really visit Hell? Could we see Gary's concept of what it's like? Does he see it in Dantesque terms—or Miltonian terms—or what? What happens to people after they've come under Satan's rule?

Don't neglect these potentially great avenues of plot, I think—but then, I'm prejudiced—that they'd make GHOST RIDER even more exciting that it already is.

Allan Goffstein
8335 Seville
St. Louis, Mo. 63132

Johnny did go to Hell in GHOST RIDER #2, Allen, but we admit you still haven't seen all that much of Satan's unhallowed realm...or what happens to ordinary folks who reside there rather than up above. Perhaps we can expand on those aspects as we vrrooom down the highways and byways of Blaze's demon-haunted life.

Also, we did try to answer the God question on the letters page of that second issue. We're still waiting for further ideas on the subject from our readers (you, for example)...and for Gary to tell the definitive tale.

Meanwhile, stay happy, stay healthy, keep readin' Marvel mags, and don't let the sound of your own wheels drive you crazy. Excelsior, shield-and-a-hail!

AN IRON FIST... AND HANDS OF STEEL
AGAINST THE MACABRE MASTER-VILLAINY OF
FU MANCHU?
YOU KNOW IT, EFFENDI! THAT'S THE THEME-- AND ACTION IS THE NAME OF THE GAME-- IN THE NEWEST, PERHAPS MOST MAGNIFICENT MAG OF ALL!
MOVE OVER, CAINE! STEP ASIDE, BRUCE LEE! THIS IS THE BIG ONE-- ON SALE NOW--!
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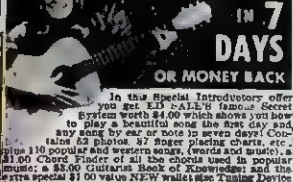

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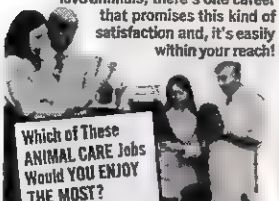

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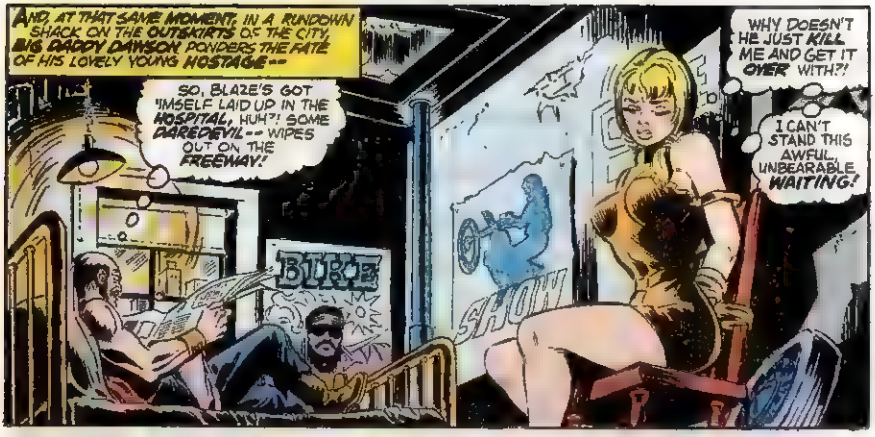
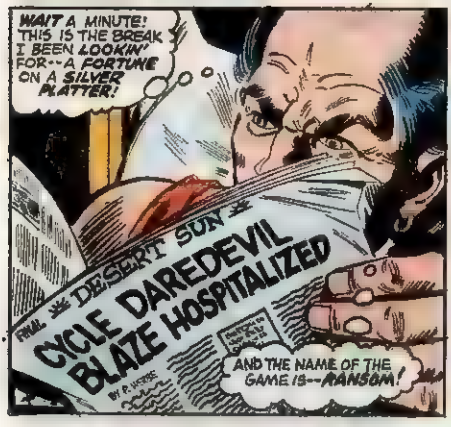
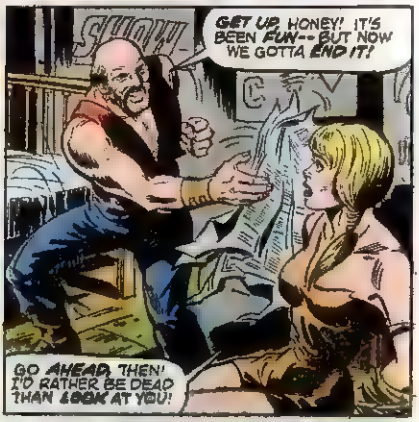
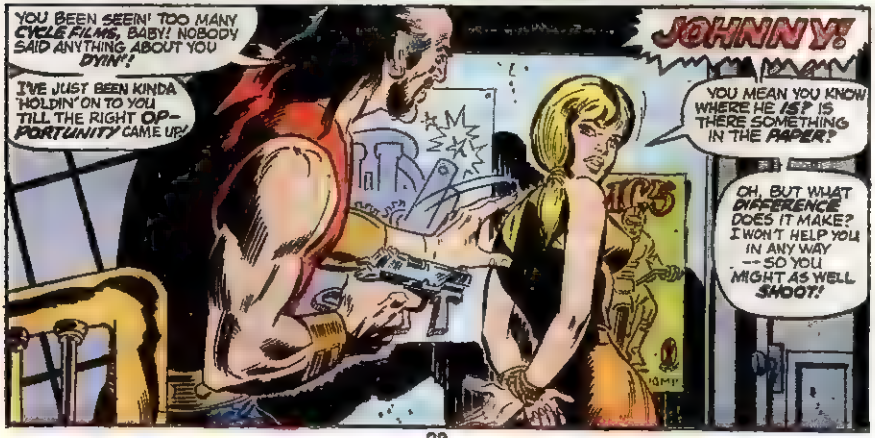

AND, AT THAT SAME MOMENT, IN A RUNDOWN SHACK ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY, BIG DADDY DAWSON PONDERS THE FATE OF HIS LOVELY YOUNG HOSTAGE--
SO, BLAZE'S GOT 'IMSELF LAID UP IN THE HOSPITAL, HUH?! SOME DAREDEVIL -- WIPES OUT ON THE FREEWAY!
BLAZE
SHOW
WHY DOESN'T HE JUST KILL ME AND GET IT OVER WITH?!
I CAN'T STAND THIS AWFUL, UNBEARABLE WAITING!


WAIT A MINUTE! THIS IS THE BREAK I BEEN LOOKIN' FOR--A FORTUNE ON A SILVER PLATTER!
FROM THE DESERT SUN
CYCLE DAREDEVIL BLAZE HOSPITALIZED
BY P. HOPE
AND THE NAME OF THE GAME IS--RANSOM!




YOU BEEN SEEIN' TOO MANY CYCLE FILMS, BABY! NOBODY SAID ANYTHING ABOUT YOU DYIN'!
I'VE JUST BEEN KINDA 'HOLDIN' ON TO YOU TILL THE RIGHT OP-PORTUNITY CAME UP!
JOHNNY!
YOU MEAN YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS? IS THERE SOMETHING IN THE PAPER?
OH, BUT WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? I WON'T HELP YOU IN ANY WAY -- SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL SHOOT!

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HIS PULSE IS BACK TO NORMAL NOW--BUT GIVE HIM ANOTHER HYPO, JUST TO BE SAFE!
YES, DOCTOR--AND I HOPE IT KEEPS HIM UNDER! HE WAS TOTALLY HYSTERICAL!
IT WON'T BE LONG NOW, BABY! YOU'LL BE BACK WITH BLAZE--AND I'LL BE RICH!
I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU I WON'T SEE HIM, AND BESIDES, HE HASN'T ANY MONEY!
THEN HE'D BETTER GET SOME! NOW SHUT UP! IT'S GETTIN' DARK! GOTTA CONCENTRATE ON THE ROAD!
SUNSET! I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN! IF HE'S STILL AT THE HOSPITAL--HE'LL NO LONGER BE JOHNNY!
HEAD BURSTING--BURNING UP WITH FEVER! WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
THE SUN'S ALMOST DOWN--SO I'LL RAISE THE SHADES! SURELY THE MOONLIGHT WON'T WAKE HIM!
THEN I CAN LOOK AT THE LIGHTS--AND THE STARS WHILE THE PATIENT SLEEPS! THIS SHOULD BE A PEACEFUL NIGHT FOR A CHANGE!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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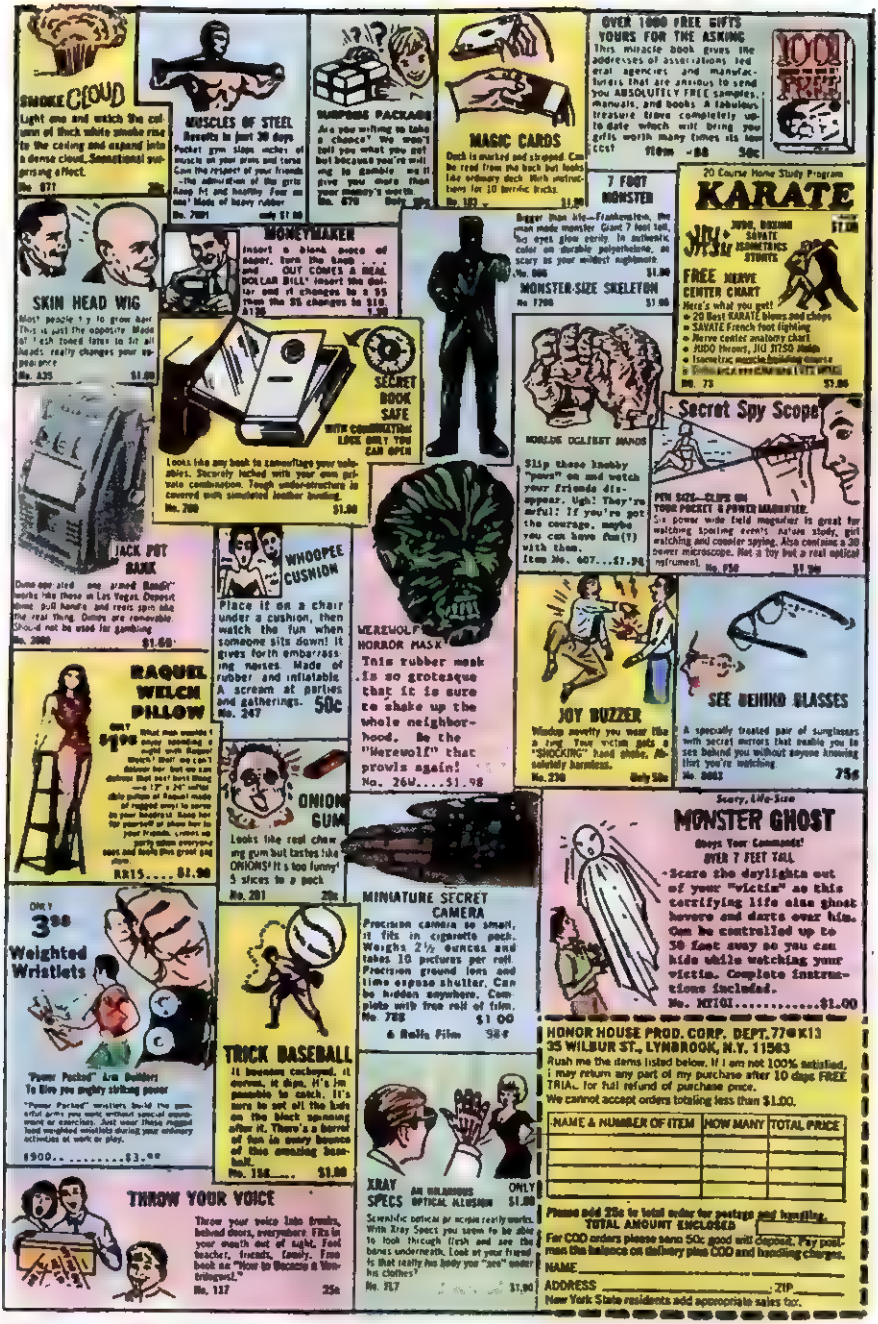
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Although our course is not a prerequisite for these jobs, here are a few job titles recently reported to us by our graduates.

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Special Game Protector
Game Management Officer
Game Manager
Wildlife Officer
Wildlife Protector
Conservation Officer
Conservation Inspector
Big Game Census Assistant
Forest Insect Ranger
Pest Control Assistant
Fish & Wildlife Assistant

FISHERIES SERVICE
Fish Warden
Fish Management Specialist
Fisheries Technician
Fish Hatcheryman
Fish Culturist

PROFESSIONAL HUNTER
Government Trapper
Marsma Control Agent
Hunting Guide
Wilderness Guide

PRIVATE INDUSTRY
Game Farm Manager
Game Preserve Manager
Nature Center Manager
Tree Farm Manager

FOREST & PARK SERVICE
Assistant Park Ranger
recreation Area Manager
Park Attendant
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Fire Inspector
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County Ranger
Forest Officer
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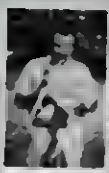

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OOOHHHHH!
STAND BACK, WOMAN! THE GHOST RIDER HAS NO WISH TO HARM THE INNOCENT!
FREEZE, BLAZE! YOUR CORNY COSTUME WON'T HELP YOU BREAK OUT THIS TIME!
FOOL! STAND ASIDE--OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES!
AS YOU CHOOSE! PERHAPS THE POWERS OF HELLFIRE WILL MAKE A BELIEVER OF YOU!
HAVE TO MAKE A RUN FOR IT-- GET AWAY BEFORE I'M FORCED TO HURT SOMEONE!
ALMOST FORGOT TO USE MY GHOSTLY VOICE ON HIM-- AND NEXT TIME, I PROBABLY WILL FORGET!
BUT WHY DWELL ON THAT? AS SOON AS HE GETS OVER THE SHOCK-- HE'LL HAVE EVERY COP ALIVE ON MY TRAIL!
SO I'VE GOT TO FIND A PLACE WHERE I CAN HIDE AT NIGHT--AND GET MEDICAL TREATMENT IN THE DAY!
IF I DON'T-- I'VE MISSED THE BIG RAMP-- AND THE DEVIL WINS IT ALL!

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THERE IT IS! NOW YOU PUT ON YOUR PRETTIEST FACE AND GET A BIG GREETIN' READY FOR YER BOYFRIEND!
OSPITAL
YOU'RE RIGHT! YOU'RE STILL A PIG -- BUT YOU'RE RIGHT -- SO I'LL DO AS YOU SAY!
WHADDAYA KNOW-- BEAUTY AND BRAINS! MAYBE I SHOULDN'T LET YA GO SO EASY-- BUT I NEED THE CASH-- SO GET MOVING!
HOSPIT
PARKIN
STOP THAT MAN! HE'S AN ESCAPED FUGITIVE!
ROCKY!
HE KIDNAPPED ME, JOHNNY! GET HIM!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN TO GET OFF WITH THAT COSTUME BIT, DO YA, BLAZE? BUT IT AIN'T GONNA HELP YA THIS TIME -- UNLESS YER BULLET-PROOF!
THAT IS NOT ENTIRELY TRUE, SWINE -- BUT FOR YOUR FEEBLE MORTAL MIND IT WILL SERVE AS EXPLANATION ENOUGH!
KRAK!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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MONUMENTAL MEMORANDUMS OF MICE AND MARVELDOM!

ITEM! It had to happen! The *Martial Arts* are coming to mind-boggling Marvel, so step up and shake hands with *Shang-Chi*—MASTER OF KUNG FU. You'll thrill to the non-stop action (scripted by Stainless STEVE ENGLEHART and drawn by Judo JIM STARLIN) as our newest, most unique hero ever lashes out with fists and feet of fury—while those of you who prefer a bit of super-villainy with your Martial Arts will be stunned to know that young *Shang-Chi* is the steel-fisted son of none other than Fu Manchu, perhaps the most infamous mastermind in the history of evil! So look out, Caine—move over, Bruce Lee—'cause *Shang-Chi*, MASTER OF KUNG FU is coming your way on September 18th! *Hai!*

ITEM! We've a couple of other new mags debuting this go-round, too, for those of you who simply can't get enough of our macabre mystery-type thrillers. Don't miss your collectors'-item editions of a trio of winners called UNCANNY TALES, THE DEAD OF NIGHT, and WEIRD WONDER TALES! The latter, incidentally, features startling sagas of a more science-fiction nature, drawn by some of comicdom's finest! Read 'em and reap, pilgrim!

ITEM! Hey, here's a special aside to all our college readers—and, to judge from our mail, just about every college joe and co-ed in the land must be into Marvel. Anyway, here's the bit: If your college bookstore isn't carrying the latest Marvel masterworks, let us know pronto by dropping us a line c/o CIRCULATION DEPT., Marvel Comics Group, 575 Madison Ave., NYC NY 10022. Help that bookstore of yours shape up, okay? After all, we wouldn't wantcha to be culturally deprived!

ITEM! Looks like the whole world's goin' crazy! CRAZY Magazine, that is! Editor MARV WOLFMAN got busy on the phone the other day, and now issue #2 spotlights a heaping handful of satire by none other than ART BUCHWALD, one of America's most famous humorists—in addition to potent parody by some of the world's wittiest artists and writers! Want proof? Then dig our special Back-To-School ish. That's CRAZY #2, now on sale—wherever nutritious magazines are sold!

ITEM! Well, we predicted it—and you verily, it has come to pass! In other words, it looks like our far-out FOOM Club is gonna be a bigger hit than the good ol' MMMS and Marvelmania combined—and this one's here to stay, people! Every day brings a veritable mountain of mail singing the praises of all the goodies you get when you sign up—and if you don't believe us, just peruse some of our litin' letters pages, where we've printed the most colorful of the lot! Meanwhile, Jaunty JIM STERANKO—our Minister of InFOOMation—is already shipping out the third big issue of our very own FOOM Magazine to each and every member, and this one is replete with the first of a zingy new set of Secret Codes which so many of you—young *and* old—have requested! The very first cipher is our SPIDER-MAN CODE, and here's a cryptic message about an upcoming Marvel event which is definitely F.O.O.M. (For Only Our Members)! To wit:

HSGMDUB RIWFB SNFG
OFIG DJ JSNFHMFG.

Captain Midnight, eat your heart out!

Bad news, it seems, never travels alone.

Only two months ago, this space told of the demise of our friend and co-worker, Bill Everett. And now, we regret to announce the untimely passing of another all-time great comic artist, SYD SHORES, on Sunday, June 3, 1973.

Syd has been known for his fine work over the years, most notably on *Captain America* in the 1940's, and on *Red Wolf* and many other strips in more recent years. A fuller word will appear in the fourth issue of *Monsters Unleashed*, where Syd's last work will appear.

Meanwhile, suffice it to say that he was a real talent . . . and he'll be missed.

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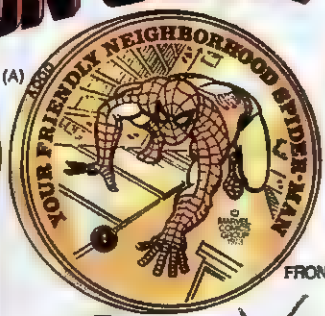

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Each Spider coin is practically custom-made just for you! Nothing could be more personal — more your very own — because every single one of these beautiful, hand-antiqued, solid-bronze coins is one-of-a-kind — like no other in all the world! EACH HAS ITS OWN REGISTERED SERIAL NUMBER — NO TWO CAN EVER BE ALIKE!

This offer is for a LIMITED TIME only!

So, HURRY! Send for your exclusive SPIDER-MAN coin. It's the first of a great series. ORDER IMMEDIATELY FOR LOWEST SERIAL NUMBER — worth much more to collectors . . . especially when future coins are issued!

MARVEL FANS:

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Send_____ (C) Key Chain(s), 12K gold g.f., at $1.00 each..... $_____
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Send_____ (D) 24" Neckchain(s), 12K gold g.f., at $1.00 each. $_____
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Add only 60¢ for postage and handling to order all you like..... $_____

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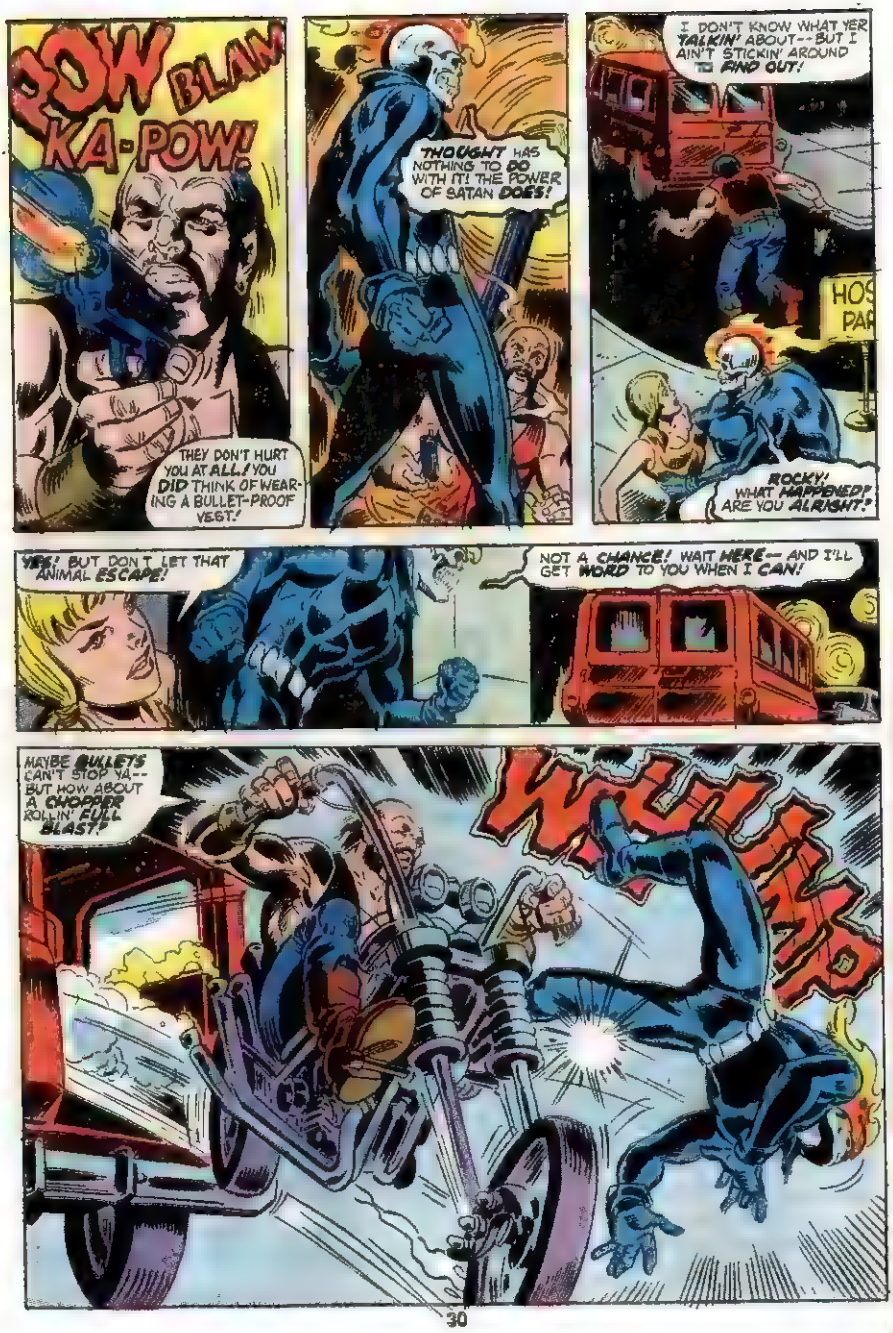
POW
BLAM
KA-POW!
THEY DON'T HURT YOU AT ALL! YOU DID THINK OF WEARING A BULLET-PROOF VEST!
THOUGHT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT! THE POWER OF SATAN DOES!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YER TALKIN' ABOUT--BUT I AIN'T STICKIN' AROUND TO FIND OUT!
ROCKY! WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
YES! BUT DON'T LET THAT ANIMAL ESCAPE!
NOT A CHANCE! WAIT HERE-- AND I'LL GET WORD TO YOU WHEN I CAN!
MAYBE BULLETS CAN'T STOP YA--BUT HOW ABOUT A CHOPPER ROLLIN' FULL BLAST!
WHUMP

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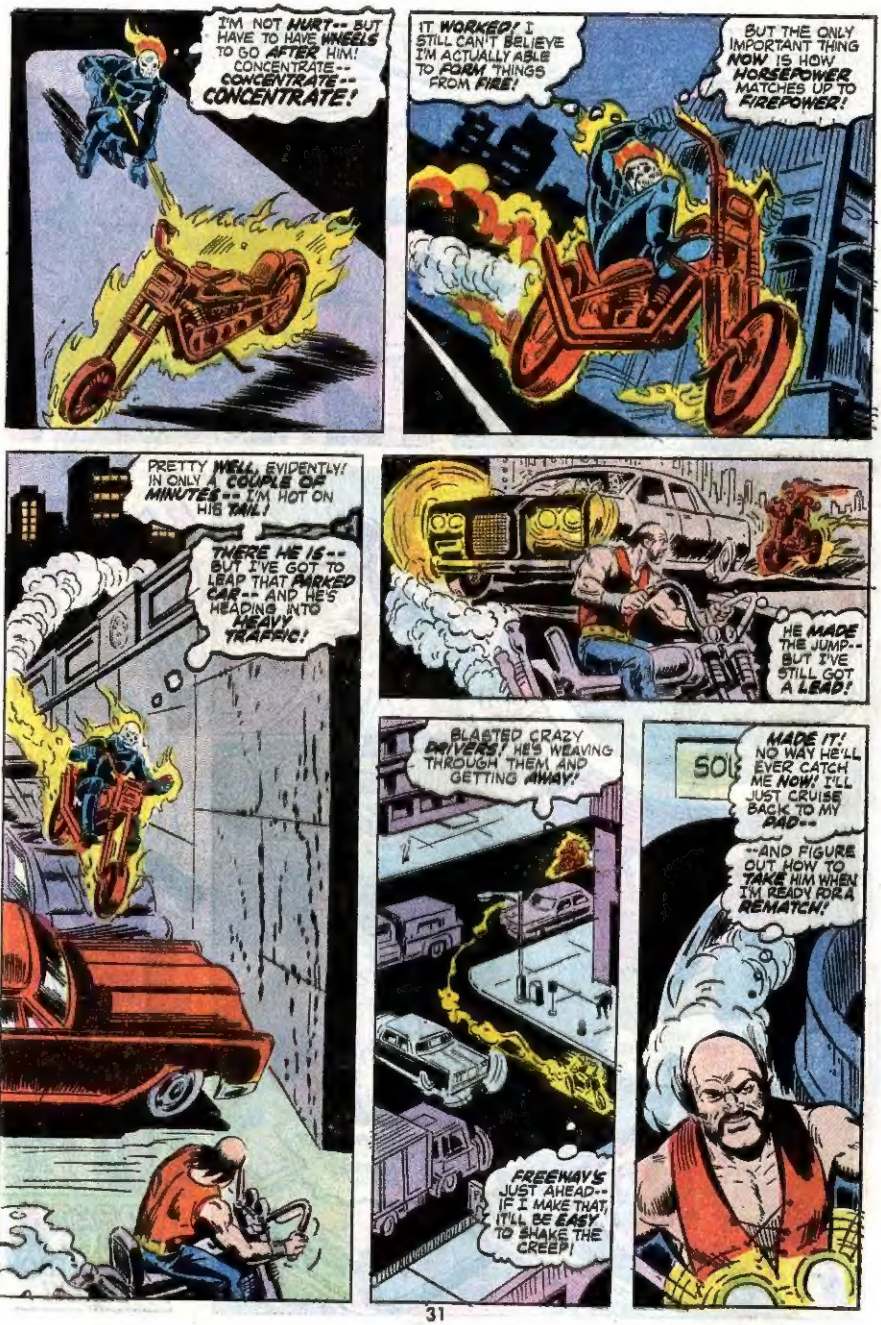
I'M NOT HURT-- BUT HAVE TO HAVE WHEELS TO GO AFTER HIM! CONCENTRATE-- CONCENTRATE-- CONCENTRATE!
IT WORKED! I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE I'M ACTUALLY ABLE TO FORM THINGS FROM FIRE!
BUT THE ONLY IMPORTANT THING NOW IS HOW HORSEPOWER MATCHES UP TO FIREPOWER!
PRETTY WELL, EVIDENTLY! IN ONLY A COUPLE OF MINUTES-- I'M HOT ON HIS TAIL!
THERE HE IS-- BUT I'VE GOT TO LEAP THAT PARKED CAR-- AND HE'S HEADING INTO HEAVY TRAFFIC!
HE MADE THE JUMP-- BUT I'VE STILL GOT A LEAD!
BLASTED CRAZY DRIVERS! HE'S WEAVING THROUGH THEM AND GETTING AWAY!
FREEWAY'S JUST AHEAD-- IF I MAKE THAT, IT'LL BE EASY TO SHAKE THE CREEP!
SO
MADE IT! NO WAY HE'LL EVER CATCH ME NOW! I'LL JUST CRUISE BACK TO MY PAD--
--AND FIGURE OUT HOW TO TAKE HIM WHEN I'M READY FOR A REMATCH!

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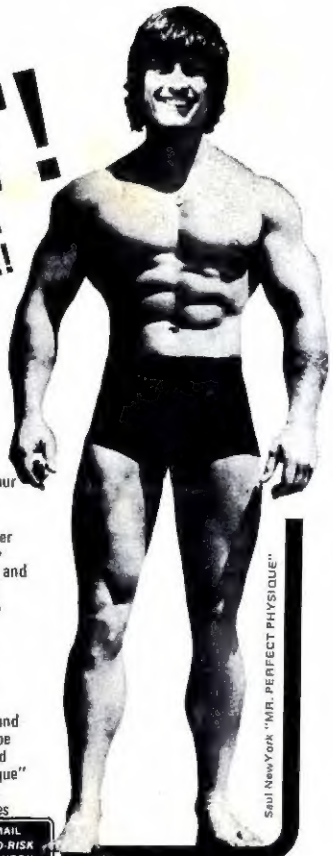
MY GAMBLE PAID OFF! HE'S RIGHT UNDER ME -- IF I CAN MAKE THE LEAP!
THERE! NO SWEAT! SHOULD'VE KNOWN YOU CAN'T SMASH FIRE! NOW THE RACE IS ON!
WHERE THE DEVIL DID HE COME FROM? COULD'VE SWORE I LOST 'IM!
DON'T LIKE KILLING ANYONE -- BUT BETTER HE DIE THAN INNOCENT DRIVERS!
LORD! MY FLAME BLEW HIS TIRE -- SMASHED HIM INTO THAT TRUCK!
POW!
IN TRYING TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT -- I'VE PROBABLY HARMED THEM AGAIN!
EEEE

GAIN WEIGHT!

Be Muscular and Admired!!



Yes, you too can have a body like "Mr. Perfect Physique" Saul NewYork (pictured above). He followed our HERCULES II Muscle Building Course for just a few short weeks and gained 3" on each arm, 4" on his chest and beefed up his legs, back and stomach muscles until he reached his present Super Build – a body good enough to win him the World's coveted "Mr. Perfect Physique" title.

Yes, our Muscle Building Secrets contained in HERCULES II can transform your present body into the kind of handsome rippling muscularity that other guys respect and all girls 'flip' over.

It doesn't matter if you own the skinniest, flabbiest body in the world - whether you are tall or short young or not so young, you really can muscle up instantly by using our easy to follow step-by-step HERCULES II plan. It's entirely safe and so easy to do next to other courses. It will amaze you! There are no gimmicks, gadgets or costly weights to buy. Just simple, yet terrifyingly effective steps to muscledom. It only takes a few minutes a day of your time.

Just how big you build your body is entirely up to you. 10, 20, 30 pounds of solid muscle! You can do it! In fact any guy in normal health can do it.

JUST IMAGINE – IN A FEW SHORT WEEKS FROM NOW YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FLEX THOSE BULGING BICEPS AND YOUR FRIENDS WILL GASP IN ASTONISHMENT. Pick up a 6 inch spike, bend it effortlessly and hand it to your buddy. Invite him to straighten it. Knowing average guys, he won't be able to budge it, however red-faced he gets trying. Yes! Our New secret method can change your whole life. Why not follow in the steps of "Mr. Perfect Physique" Remember the sooner you send the order form at the bottom of this page, the sooner you will be helping yourself to a lion's share of rippling, healthy muscles bursting with power and explosive energy.

WHAT OTHERS SAY. . . .

"Hercules II has given me a new body - I never realised how easy it was to gain weight." T. Sandson

"In 3 weeks I have put 1½" on my arms, 3½" on my chest and lost flab from my waist. My stomach muscles can now take any punch" S. Johnston

"I have gained 22 pounds of muscle in 30 days – I have put 4" on my arms – A million thanks to your New Hercules II program." Bill Canning

"I was a skinny weakling – I just can't describe how much your course has done for me. The results have been amazing" P.G. Roberts

"I feel great – Look 100% better. Can lift my father above my head" J. Scott

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Bodybuilding Center.

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Sirs

Enclosed 25¢ coin to cover handling and mailing charges.

Rush me the exact same FREE information you sent Saul NewYork, detailing how I can get an INSTANT SUPER-BUILD with HERCULES II Muscle Building plan. I am under no further obligation in any way.

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